



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Building Resources and
Boosting Local Government
Across Northeastern Illinois



Capacity



Building



Program

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Capacity Building Program offers training, technical assistance, and boots-on-the-ground support to local governments throughout northeastern Illinois.

The goal is for communities to have a visible impact — cleaned-up properties, shovels in the ground, enhanced public spaces — while advancing their long-term vision. The program also assists local staff in creating and strengthening internal systems and operations, so the gains are self-sustaining over time.

This work was made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation, funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation, and seed money from the Chicago Community Trust.

“The intent was to learn where can we best serve the community and really identify where we added value — and taking those lessons to come up with a long-term sustainable approach.”

Stephane Phifer, CMAP Deputy Executive Director for Planning

PROGRAM FUNDERS



MacArthur
Foundation

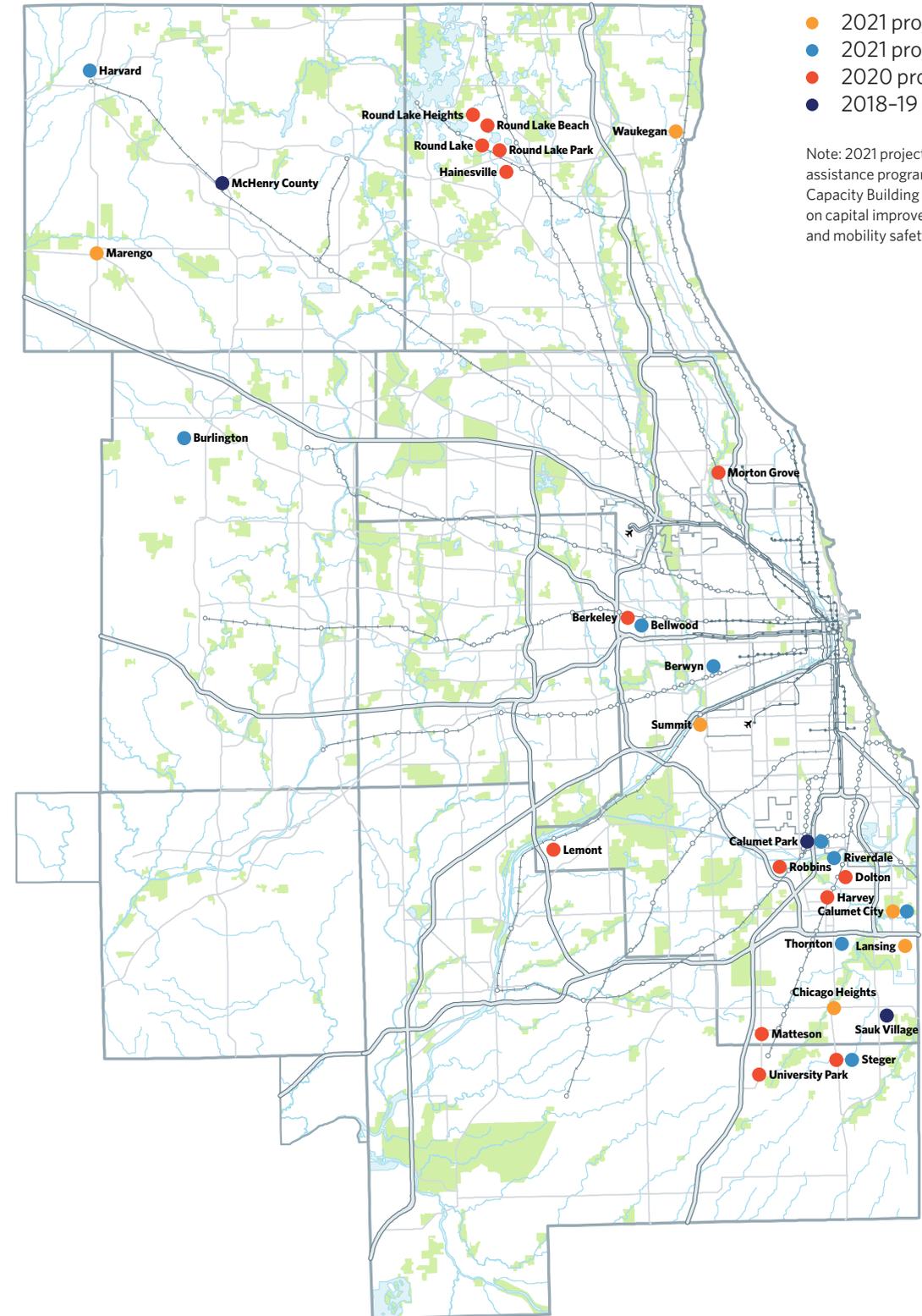


MAP

Capacity Building
Program projects across
northeastern Illinois

- 2021 projects A
- 2021 projects B
- 2020 projects
- 2018-19 projects

Note: 2021 projects B are new technical assistance programs inspired by the Capacity Building Program that focus on capital improvement programming and mobility safety planning.



Through the Resource, Opportunity, and Impact program, CMAP supported the submission of nine grant applications for participating communities. This totaled over \$73 million in potential funding for transportation improvements.



PROJECTS TO DATE

Communities that participated in the program between 2019 and 2021 started or advanced dozens of projects, launched new public outdoor initiatives, and collaborated to streamline efforts and achieve savings.

The first phase in 2019 included the embedded staff planner program, where CMAP staff planners were assigned to work directly with two municipalities — Calumet Park and Sauk Village.

These efforts led to the municipalities receiving more than \$3.75 million in grants. They also worked on a range of projects, including revitalizing a major business corridor in Calumet Park and planning for a new 53-home “smart neighborhood” subdivision in Sauk Village.

“It’s very intensive work, but you get to see the fruits of your labor.”
Johnathan Shaw, Calumet Park, Parks and Recreation Director

CMAP staff also facilitated the coordinated investment study in McHenry County with the participation of more than 100 local governments. The result was the creation of a new county coordinator position and a shared online portal for intergovernmental coordination.

The second phase in 2021 included three programs: the NEXT Program to implement existing plans; the Resource, Opportunity, and Impact program to move forward transportation projects; and the Collaborative for Public Space Innovations to come up with creative uses of public space.

Participating communities pursued a variety of different projects, from over \$73 million of grant applications for transportation improvements in Harvey and University Park, to streetscape plans and public space improvements in Berkeley, Matteson, and Lemont.

The program also helped establish community outreach events such as Harvey's Downtown Fest and Community Bike Ride, and Morton Grove's educational Tree Walk.

"They really delve deep — researching, getting to know the community, and helping us form a project that really fits our needs."

Zoe Heidorn, Morton Grove, Village Planner



The participants gave high marks to the program. They found especially beneficial developing grant toolkits, devising criteria to prioritize projects, and establishing relationships with neighbors and outside agencies through planning.

"CMAP has made a permanent difference in our downtown."

Jason Berry, Lemont Economic and Community Development Director

CMAP and its staff have a commitment to giving hands-on assistance to local governments and addressing regional challenges while also working in inclusive ways with communities that have limited resources.

The agency is launching additional rounds of capacity building services and invites local governments to apply to participate. Reach out to your Local Government Network liaison at CMAP for more information.

